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OIR/DB OUTGOING

SECRET PRIORITY

FRP:

STAFF

DIRECTOR

PAGE 001 APR 87 TOT: 08

BRIEF OR DIRECTOR TO: PRIORITY LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR OB APRIL 1987.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

ITEMS

CHILE: IMPACT OF PAPAL VISIT

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THE POPE'S BALANCED SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HIS CONDEMNATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE DURING HIS SIX-DAY VISIT TO CHILE WILL BENEFIT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND POLITICAL MODERATES, WILL FURTHER ISOLATE THE FAR LEFT, AND MAY NARROW PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S MANEUVERING ROOM.

DESPITE NUMEROUS DISRUPTIONS
PRECIPITATED BY THE FAR LEFT, MILLIONS GREETED THE POPE
ENTHUSIASTICALLY. THE CROWDS AT EACH OF THE PONTIFF'S PUBLIC
APPEARANCES WERE ESPECIALLY RESPONSIVE TO HIS SUPPORT FOR WORKERS
RIGHTS AND GREATER POLITICAL FREEDOM, DEFENSE OF THE CHURCH'S
COMMITMENT TO THE POOR, AND REJECTION OF VIOLENCE.

PRESIDENT PINOCHET WAS NOT HUMBLED BY

THE PUPE'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS FAVORING A POLITICAL OPENING IN CHILE
OR RESPONSIVE TO HIS REQUESTS FOR AN END TO POLITICAL EXILE FOR
REGIME OPPONENTS AND IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE CHURCH.

THE HARDLINE SPEECH PINOCHET GAVE

WHEN GREETING THE PORTAL THE ATROOTT—IN WHICH HE BRISTED FOR THE BRIST HER BRIST HE

Declassified and Approved for Release July 2000



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DIRECTOR

CHURCH INTERVENTION IN POLITICS AND DEFENDED HIS TREATMENT OF THE OPPOSITION--CAME ACROSS TO THE PUBLIC AS SMALL MINDED WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PONTIFF'S CONCILIATORY APPEALS.

THE PROVOCATIONS THAT MARRED THE VISIT WERE CONDEMNED BY THE CHURCH, THE GOVERNMENT, AND ALL MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPS, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE FAR LEFT POLITICAL COALITION IT HEADS.

THE INSTIGATORS OF THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENTS PROBABLY WERE MEMBERS OF THE SMALL, PRO-CUBAN MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT.

COMMENT: THE CHURCH GAINED THE MOST FROM THE VISIT BY DEMONSTRATING IT COULD ORGANIZE AN INTENSIVE SCHIDULE AND MANAGE THE HUGE CROWDS AND BY DRAMATIZING ITS COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL REFORM AND POLITICAL FREEDOM. THE FAR LEFT SUFFERED A SHARP SETBACK LARGELY BECAUSE OF POPULAR REPUDIATION OF THE VIOLENCE DURING THE VISIT—WHICH MOST CHILEANS WILL BLAME ON THE COMMUNISTS—AND THE POPE'S CENSURE OF MARXIST IDEOLOGY, AND IT MAY BECOME EVEN MORE ISOLATED FROM THE MODERATES.

THE MODERATE OPPOSITION PROBABLY EXPECTS TO CAPITALIZE ON THE POPE'S MESSAGE TO PUSH AHEAD WITH ITS CAMPAIGN FOR FREE ELECTIONS. EVEN SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS AND BUSINESS LEADERS, MOVED BY THE POPE'S PLEA FOR RECONCILIATION, MAY BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE MODERATES, WHICH COULD LIMIT PINOCHET'S MANEUVERING TO BE REELECTED IN 1989.

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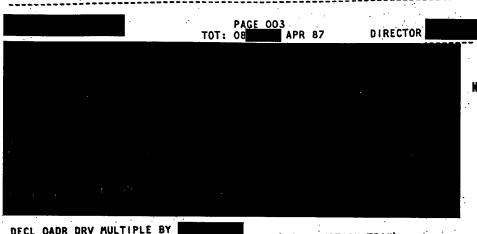
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